

## **8. Labeling - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) FAC § 12973**

Scope: All persons handling registered pesticides.

Labeling PPE requirements apply to both employees and employers. Review the labeling at the site to determine what PPE is required. Observe handlers to see if they are properly utilizing the labeling required PPE, such as gloves, coveralls, respirators, eye protection, boots, rain suit, or apron. If employee handlers are not wearing required PPE, determine and document if it was provided by the employer and is available on site. Is the PPE in good condition and well fitted? Address each piece of safety equipment separately.

Labeling required PPE used by non-employees (owners, property operators and others) must meet the maintenance and storage standards listed in 3CCR § 6738(a). Although 3CCR § 6700 – 6795 apply only to employees, standards provided in these sections are applicable to interpreting labeling requirements for non-employees as required in 3CCR § 6601 General Application of Standards. See page 6.

Exemptions: All substitutions and exemptions listed in 3CCR § 6738 including substitutions listed for closed systems and/or enclosed cabs in 3CCR § 6738(h). See Appendix 1.

## **9. Regulations - Personal Protective Equipment 3CCR § 6738**

Scope: All employees handling any pesticide(s) when:

- Required by labeling or regulation.
- Mixing or loading.
- Cleaning, adjusting or repairing equipment.
- Applying using hand-held, vehicle-mounted or towed equipment.
- Flagging.

Check NO for this requirement if any employee is not wearing all of the PPE required by the regulations and the pesticide labeling. Document the exact nature and circumstances of the violation. When required, PPE must be worn throughout the handling process.

Respiratory PPE requirements are found in 3CCR § 6739 and covered by requirement 10.

If employee handlers are not wearing required PPE, determine and document if it was provided by the employer and is available on site.

All PPE must be cleaned and inspected daily. Worn, damaged or heavily contaminated PPE does not comply with this regulation and must be replaced immediately. Check the condition of PPE and ask handlers what procedures they follow for cleaning and replacement.

Exemptions: See Appendix 1 for specific requirements and exemptions.

## **10. Respiratory Protection 3CCR § 6739**

Scope: All employees handling any pesticide when:

- Required by labeling, permit or regulation or employer policy.
- Applying minimal exposure pesticides by hand. [3CCR § 6793(f)]
- Applying minimal exposure pesticides by ground rig. (See exemptions below) [3CCR § 6793(f)]
- Treating potato seed pieces with thiophanate-methyl. (3CCR § 6795)
- Employees wear respiratory equipment.

Verify that employees have been provided and are using the appropriate type of respirator as identified on the labeling, permit or regulation. Verify that the equipment is being used properly and has been properly maintained. See information on respiratory protection in Appendix 1. Ask handlers how they store and clean their respirators. Are the respirators assigned to individuals? How often do they change the cartridges?

A labeling statement of “Avoid breathing spray mist.” does not necessarily require the use of a respirator. See Compendium Volume 8, Section 3.1 for guidance.

Exemptions:

- See 3CCR § 6738(h) on substitutions allowed when using closed systems or enclosed cabs.
- Minimal exposure pesticide ground rig applications when:
  - Using vehicle-mounted or towed equipment to inject or incorporate pesticides into the soil.
  - Using vehicle-mounted nozzles located below the employee and pointing downward. (3CCR § 6793)
- Antimicrobial agents used as sanitizers, disinfectants or medical sterilants are exempt under the conditions of 3CCR § 6720.
- PCAs or professional foresters and their employees performing crop adviser tasks. (3CCR § 6720)
- When respirator use is allowed by the employer even though not required by labeling, permit or regulation, only certain parts of 3CCR § 6739 apply. (See voluntary respirator provisions in Appendix 1).
- Consumer products see 3CCR § 6720(e).

## **11. Coveralls 3CCR § 6736**

Scope: Employees handling any pesticide with “DANGER” or “WARNING” on the labeling.

Employers must provide clean coveralls each day for employee handlers of pesticides with the signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING”. Ask the employee how often they are provided with clean coveralls. Coveralls are defined in CCR § 6000 as a one- or two-piece garment of closely woven fabric or equivalent that covers the entire body except head, hands and feet. Note that this differs from “work clothing” which does not have to be provided by the employer. Verify that handlers have a clean place to remove their PPE.